

Our study showed many other examples of price discrimination. One drug, Synthroid, a hormone treatment, had a price difference of 1350 percent. The most favored customers were paying \$1.78 for the prescription, while our senior citizens in their local pharmacies are paying \$25.86.

Some would say, well, maybe the local pharmacies are getting rich. The truth is the markup on drugs at a local pharmacy is very small. Our study indicated that it ranged anywhere from a 1 percent markup to a high of 19 percent. So it is not our local pharmacies that are responsible for this problem. It goes back to the big drug manufacturers and their discriminatory pricing practices. It is wrong, and we need to do something about it.

H.R. 4646 addresses this problem by allowing our local pharmacies to buy directly from the Federal Government at these lower prices and then resale, resale to our senior citizens at much lower prices. We think this is a common sense solution, will cost the government nothing, but it should be done for folks like Ms. Daley in Orange, Texas. The big drug companies will not like it, but for Ms. Daley it is worth the fight.

#### RESPECT WILL OF HOUSE AND SENATE AND ALLOW WOMEN EQUAL BENEFITS UNDER FEDERAL HEALTH PLANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, last night the Treasury-Postal conference settled virtually everything except the controversy over contraceptives in this body.

Normally, such controversies concern differences between the House and the Senate. There are no differences between the House and the Senate on the matter of allowing Federal employees options for contraception. This matter was won in the House; it was won in the Senate. There is an attempt to undemocratically overturn the will of this House and the will of the Senate in conference. Both the House and the Senate understood that this no-cost health necessity for women is elementary. Yet a group of men, largely of men, in this body is trying to reverse what the majority of two houses have done.

What have we done? We simply require that health plans cover contraception as they do other prescriptions. Most of what men need in prescriptions are covered, yet many health plans do not cover contraception. This is essential for the health of American women, in this case Federal employees, because of vast differences in contraceptives.

We all know, for example, of the pill. And there are some people who cannot take the pill. Some kinds of contraception do not work for some people. Some

have serious side effects. Some are uncomfortable. Some have long-term effects and people do not wish to take the risk.

Federal employees do not have the options necessary for their health today. Eighty percent, that is the vast majority of Federal plans, do not cover the range of available contraceptives and, thereby, are putting the health of women in the Federal service at risk. Ten percent do not cover contraception at all. Imagine that. Often plans cover abortion but not contraception. Really turns on its head the way we should be going at this issue.

One reason why women of reproductive age spend 68 percent more in out-of-pocket costs for health care is this failure to cover contraception which most American women use and need. Most Americans, including the majority of pro-life voters, support the requirement that health insurance cover contraception. So why is it, then, that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. CHRIS SMITH), the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK), and all the Republicans on the conference committee on the House side, and even the gentleman from Kentucky (Mrs. NORTHUP), who is on that committee, are trying to defeat the will of the majority in conference?

The bipartisan Women's Caucus of this House supports this measure. This measure was won fair and square in committee, and then there was an attempt to overturn it here in the House. Now it has been won fair and square in both Houses, and democracy does not yet rule.

This gets to be very personal, Mr. Speaker, because we are here not only talking about women's health, we are talking about the most personal side of their health: reproductive health. We have no right to limit what contraception a woman may use. The five leading methods, oral contraception, diaphragm, IUD, Norplant, and Depo-Provera, are none of them associated with abortion. That, of course, is already taken care of in the bill. Federal employees are put at considerable disadvantage by having their options limited in so basic a way.

Allow women equal benefits under Federal health plans. Let the will of the majority of the House and Senate prevail. Do not give in to an energetic minority not committed either to women or to democracy in this body.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BERRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1030

#### A CHALLENGE TO AMERICA, RECOGNIZE THE FREEDOM IN WHICH WE LIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Under a pre-

vious order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in less than a week the Committee on the Judiciary, of which I am a member, on October 5 will convene for what I believe will be an important hearing.

I thought it was important this morning, in light of the press conference yesterday of the chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), to try to not only clarify for myself but to articulate some of the views of those of us who are Democrats juxtaposed against the chairman's remarks yesterday.

This committee now has a task that for many is not a pleasant task. It is not a pleasant time for America or Americans. It is a somber time and a highly serious commitment on all of our parts, for the concept of impeachment goes to the very infrastructure of this Nation.

As I reflected on the will of the Founding Fathers in their design of article 2, section 4, the impeachment provision, I now more than ever understood their thoughts. This fledgling nation they wanted to survive. How well they do, that in 1998, we live in a free nation, a sovereign nation, that respects the First Amendment and certain rights under the Bill of Rights, such as the Fifth Amendment of due process.

The Founding Fathers were immediate immigrants from desperate nations, or nations with monarchies. I believe what they said, that we will have a nation that elects, where the head of government is not a monarchy and we will have a right as a people to elect that person but as well we will have a right to remove that person.

At the same time, I would simply say that they did not want this process to be frivolous and without meaning. Nor did they give us any fine definition.

High crimes and misdemeanors, many may think of the word high as very important. If one reads further one might find that it is high, meaning against the crown. So, in fact, they did leave the definition of high crimes and misdemeanors to the ongoing time frame of when we might find it.

So in 1974, as the Nixon proceedings moved forward, we found that the Republicans, who were then in the minority, decided that high crimes had to be a commitment of a crime and as well it had to be against the government, for obviously Mr. Nixon was of the Republican Party.

We now have had 6 days of hearings in the Committee on the Judiciary. None of them have been on the issue of defining what high crimes and misdemeanors might portend to be in 1998. We have spent a lot of time playing to the public opinion, the media blitz. We have spent a lot of time releasing documents that most Americans thought were sacred because they were part of a grand jury system.

The Office of Independent Counsel uses the grand jury system. It is a system that any one of us could be using by way of the process in local communities, where by some unfortunate circumstances one is arrested and there is a grand jury proceeding and then possibly a trial, that grand jury documentation is never released to the public. In fact, Mr. Timothy McVeigh, well-known for the allegations and charges and then conviction of bombing the Oklahoma building, 168 people dead, none of the grand jury testimony in that proceeding was ever released.

So when this is played out in the public arena, it looks as if we have strident Democrats, some say political hacks, and the white-hat-wearing Republicans who want the people to know everything.

I do not want to be either, and this process by the Founding Fathers was not made to be any of that. It was given to us in trust because we are the representatives of the people. The President is elected by the people. Yet in this Committee on the Judiciary we cannot get a unanimous vote on accepting the Fifth Amendment as a guiding principle of what we would be doing; the rights of the accused to protect them in their life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), says that the President in his guiding principles is not above the law, and I say he is absolutely right, but he is not below the law as well. He said he would be guided by the letter and the spirit of the constitution and yet in this hybrid process he has released willy-nilly the proceedings of the grand jury testimony.

We have a very important responsibility. It is frivolous, Mr. Speaker, that we would think in 2 days we can make a decision on an impeachment inquiry.

My challenge to America is to recognize the freedom in which we live and that democracy will only be preserved if we preserve it in the Committee on the Judiciary and treat everyone fairly.

#### U.S.-INDIA RELATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about several important issues affecting the relationship between the two largest democracies in the world, that is the United States and India.

Yesterday, Congress took an important step towards getting those relations back in a positive direction. The House-Senate Conference on Agricultural Appropriations approved a provision that would give the President authority to waive sanctions that were imposed on both India and Pakistan as a result of the nuclear tests that those countries conducted earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, it is important and necessary to provide the President with proper sanction waiver authority so that he may have more flexibility in negotiating with India and Pakistan.

Pursuant to the Glenn amendment to the Arms Export Control Act, the President was required to invoke severe economic sanctions after the nuclear tests in May. These unilateral sanctions prohibit a variety of commercial and technical transactions between the United States and India. U.S.-India economic relations were growing in a positive direction at the time of the tests. In fact, the U.S. was India's largest trading partner.

The sanctions that were imposed after the nuclear tests have disrupted a variety of bilateral assistance programs, including technical support for the development of financial institutions and other market reforms. These reforms offer short- and long-term opportunities for U.S. companies, large and small, to gain greater entry into India's vast consumer market and to help meet India's significant infrastructure improvement needs.

Under the unilateral sanctions, we stand to lose many of these opportunities. In addition, the sanctions require the U.S. to block international financial institutions from making loans to India.

The sanctions have not achieved the desired result, namely gaining India's support for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. However, several rounds of negotiations between our deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, and the special envoy of India's Prime Minister Vajpayee, Mr. Jaswant Singh, have shown significant progress.

Giving President Clinton the authority to waive sanctions in exchange for significant agreements for India, as well as Pakistan, will help to move forward the process and ultimately enhance our nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I was joined by 21 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in this body in sending a letter to the conferees, to the ag conferees, urging them to support this important sanctions waiver provision, and I congratulate the conferees for approving this provision last night.

Yesterday evening, India's Prime Minister Vajpayee left the United States after a brief visit to New York that included a significant speech before the United Nations, as well as a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Prime Minister Sharif. Prime Minister Vajpayee's speech to the U.N. General Assembly provided a positive foundation for improving U.S.-India relations.

I was also heartened by the new chapter in India-Pakistan ties signalled by Thursday's meeting between the two prime ministers of India and Pakistan.

By expressing India's readiness to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Prime Minister Vajpayee has helped

to vastly improve the climate and relations between the United States and India.

I hope our administration will redouble its efforts to work with the Indian government to achieve results on nuclear proliferation of other issues.

I was also very encouraged by the outcome of the Indian and Pakistani prime ministers' meeting, particularly with regard to peacefully settling the Kashmir issue establishing better communications between the two governments and increasing economic and trade cooperation.

I agree that these issues, particularly the Kashmir issue, should be addressed on a bilateral basis between the two countries.

The prime minister of India's appeal for a concerted international plan to combat terrorism and safeguard human rights is consistent with American views on these issues and deserves the support of the United States and the international community. In fact, the leadership that the prime minister expressed on all of these issues points to the importance of finally granting India a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

Besides the obvious justification for this step, the fact that India has one-sixth of the world's population and has contributed significantly to U.N. peacekeeping efforts, India offers a model for developing countries based on democracy and tolerance and as the prime minister's speech showed yesterday, India has important ideas on global stability issues that the rest of the world should listen to.

I have sponsored legislation expressing support for India's bid to become a permanent member of the Security Council and I hope that the prime minister's visit will add momentum to that effort. I also hope that the progress we have seen in the last few days creates the conditions to allow President Clinton's trip to South Asia to go forward in the near future.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to remind my colleagues here and the American people of an important milestone. October 2, this Friday, is the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, who led India's independence effort. I mention Gandhi's birthday because this House recently approved legislation, that I cosponsored with my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM), that would authorize the government of India to establish a memorial to honor Mahatma Gandhi in Washington, D.C. There is similar legislation pending in the Senate, and I hope our colleagues in the other body will approve that legislation, ideally in time for the commemoration of Gandhi's birthday on Friday, and as another expression of friendship between our two countries.